

PIONEER



A kinder, gentler testing center

BROOKLIN HOSS
News Writing Student

At least some students have given a thumbs-up to changes in the Testing Center designed to reduce anxiety and promote better concentration for test-takers.

Lydia Rucker, the new testing center assistant director, said she and her staff are making the Testing Center more welcoming for the students, particularly in the entry room, where students come to sign in.

"Incorporating more nature and earth tones like plants, a few nature wall stickers, and some posters with Dr. Seuss quotes on them will release anxiety from some of the students that have anxiety while taking tests," she said.

One new set of tools they have put to use in the Testing Center rooms are white-noise makers that drown out background noises like tapping of pencils, erasers against papers, or the turning sheets of paper, Rucker said.



COMFORTABLE ATMOSPHERE: Shara Hendriks, senior test center assistant, helps broadcasting major Ashley Guyer with signing in to take a test. *Melissa Sue Lopez/Pioneer*

She said she hopes to one day also incorporate a sage-green wall in the Testing Center for its therapeutic benefits.

"Research has shown how color has a great impact on anxiety, and stimulates the brain," Rucker said.

Her overall goal is to reduce stress and promote positive interactions between staff and students, and to make the process easier for faculty, and more comfortable for everyone, Rucker said.

See **TESTING CENTER** pg. 9

Price of tuition expected to be raised in fall

Student leaders offer suggestions for combatting budget cuts

SALIAH NICOLE GOUDEAU
News Writing Student

An increase in tuition is something students can expect in the fall, said Steven Bloomberg, acting executive vice president on Feb. 18.

Bloomberg led a listening session with student leaders in The Leadership Council to get their suggestions on cutting costs and raising funds at OCCC.

Bloomberg told the students that OCCC's budget has been hit by a loss of tax revenue.

The decreasing price of oil is having a major effect on the state budget, he said, noting that Oklahoma cannot spend more money than it collects in taxes.

He noted that Oklahoma is putting a larger and larger burden of higher education costs on students.

In 1988, 75 percent of higher education funding came from the state, Bloomberg said, but in 2016 it is now 35 percent. Students are paying bigger tuition bills and these costs to students are expected to continue rising to some extent.

"The tuition will go up but it will not double," Bloomberg said. The decision about how much tuition should rise will be made after the full budget is reviewed.

Final budget numbers will not come from the state Legislature until April or May.

The student council members wrote down their suggestions for ways the college could save money. Then the suggestions were written on a writing surface for everyone to see.

One suggestion was adjusting temperatures on the air conditioning to cut down the use of electricity.

Another was to close off areas of the campus when not in use to save on heating, air conditioning, and lighting.

One student recommended reducing the amount of printing paper used on campus.

The students also came up with ideas to help the college raise more money.

One suggestion was renting spaces to food trucks. Another thought was to make food management a class so students would provide part of the staffing for a grade.

Another thought was to charge at the wellness center and for exercise classes.

One person suggested that students who spend a lot of time on campus would pay to rent nap pods if they were available.

A final thought was to have people pay for parking.

For more information or to provide additional feedback, contact Bloomberg at sbloomberg@occc.edu.

EDITORIAL/OPINION

EDITORIAL | Writer urges Oklahomans to put plans in place for another season of severe and potentially violent weather

Be prepared for Oklahoma's storms



TREY BELL

The official start of the Oklahoma severe weather season is right around the corner, and it's important for Oklahomans to be prepared. Hail, wind, flooding, and tornadoes are all prevalent threats during Spring in the Sooner State. Although there is general knowledge of how to prepare for and be protected during inclement weather, each threat needs to be treated differently.

For those who have lived in Oklahoma for a while, dealing with severe weather has become second nature. However each mode, or type, of severe weather needs to be taken into account when preparing for inclement weather. Hail is a big problem associated with severe thunderstorms. Depending on its size, hail can do irreparable damage to cars, homes, windows, and yards. When hail is forecasted, the best way to protect vehicles is to park them in the garage, or under some sort of covered structure. If none are available, sheets of foam, such as a mattress topper, can be placed over and secured to the car to shield it from hailstones.

Wind is another common issue in this state. We experience it everyday, but straight-line wind gusts can reach 90+ mph in severe thunderstorms. This is more than enough to blow around lawn equipment, and even blow out windows. It's important to secure all items in the yard before a thunderstorm, as not only can they be blown away and become lost, but they can also cause damage to a neighbor's property as well. Place trash cans right next to the house to limit the chances of them being knocked over.

Contrary to popular belief, tornadoes are actually quite rare, in relation to how many thunderstorms occur annually. According to the National Severe Storms Laboratory, only 20 percent of supercell thunderstorms go on to produce tornadoes, and less than 0.1 percent reach EF5 status, the most violent ranking on the Enhanced Fujita Scale.

When tornadoes are in the forecast, the first thing to remember is not to panic. Have a plan, have a way to contact family members, and have a way to access severe weather coverage. One could use a battery operated television, a radio, or even an app on a smartphone. If caught in a tornado warning zone, time is critical. The plans and supplies need to have been prepared before the outbreak began. Make sure to include water, flashlights, blankets, snacks, first

aid items, and batteries in a tornado emergency kit, and have it readily accessible. Make sure the designated safe spot, which include an interior closet or bathroom, safe room, storm cellar, or basement, is cleaned out. It's also important to have storm cellars and safe rooms registered, so rescue crews can find them if it were to become enshrouded in debris.

Flooding is also a major problem that is often overlooked. Even as 2015 became the second wettest year on record at 55.06" of rain, with multiple severe flooding events in April and May, people take little consideration of the dangers of floods. According to the National Weather Service, eighty-five people were killed by flood waters in 2013, 53 percent of which were driving.

Remember, turn around, don't drown. Although the bridge may look like it's still there, it may have been washed out under the running water. It only takes two feet of moving water to sweep away a car, and just six inches to knock an average adult off their feet.

Severe weather is always a prominent threat in Oklahoma, and it's important to have a plan. Each threat needs to be treated differently and taken seriously. It's important to always be prepared.

—TREY BELL
STAFF WRITER

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Award for Excellence in Teaching nominations due by Wed. March 23

Nominate now for Excellence in Teaching award

To the Editor:

The President's Award for Excellence in Teaching is presented in the spring each year to a full-time faculty member who exemplifies teaching excellence.

To be considered for this award a faculty member may be nominated by a fellow faculty member, by a current or former student, or by a staff member.

Nominees will be asked to complete a reference sheet supplying personal

and professional information.

After a review of all nominations, a selection committee appointed by the Vice President for Academic Affairs will recommend three candidates. The Vice President for Academic Affairs will then forward the recommended candidates to the President who will make the final selection.

Criteria for selection include: a high degree of professional competence exhibited by knowledge and expertise that

is extensive and current, effective teaching methods that demonstrate quality, creativity, and resourcefulness, as well as clear, accurate and effective communication, enthusiasm and a strong commitment to teaching in general and a genuine concern, commitment, and fairness to students, and contribution to the teaching profession at the institutional, state, or national level.

The recipient of the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching will

be announced during commencement exercises.

At that time, the recipient will be presented a plaque and cash award of \$1,000 to commemorate this honor.

Nomination must be submitted to the Academic Affairs office by Wed. March 23. Forms are available at <http://bit.ly/1R06ber>.

—ANNE H. DECLOUETTE
V.P. FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

PIONEER

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author's name if the request is made in writing. The PIONEER has the right to edit all letters and submissions for length, libel and obscenity. Letters should be no more than 250 words. Students must list a major. OCCC staff and faculty must list a work title. Letters to the editor can be submitted to the PIONEER office, located in room 1F2 on the first floor of the Art and Humanities Building, mailed to 7777 S May Ave., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73159, or submitted via e-mail to editor@occc.edu with a phone number for verification included. The PIONEER ONLINE also can be accessed at <http://pioneer.occc.edu>.

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

RESTAURANT REVIEW | Diners may find OKC's Tamashii Ramen House to be a delightful excursion

Genuine Japanese ramen in Oklahoma City

If you are looking for something delicious to eat on a night out, or the morning after, in central Oklahoma City, try the Tamashii Ramen House.

Located in a nondescript, white building at 321 NW 8th St in Oklahoma City, this noodle shop set apart from its surroundings looks quiet, with just a small sign to mark its presence.

The sleepy exterior belies the busy atmosphere within.

When I visited on a Friday night, cheerful patrons filled every booth and seat in the small shop. A crowd of hungry people huddles just inside the doors awaiting the next available table.

Eventually the server seated us at the bar, which provides a view directly into the kitchen where everything is prepared.

The menu is not large, offering five types of ramen, but diners have a large list of additional ingredients with which to customize each bowl that can also be supplemented with an array of appetizers and desserts.

While we waited for our noodles, my friends and I snacked on takoyaki, octopus with green onion and



ginger battered and fried in little round balls that looked kind of like hushpuppies. With takoyaki sauce and mayonnaise drizzled on top, they were crunchy on the outside, but warm and creamy on the inside.

For a main dish I chose a miso butter corn ramen in a style originating from the Japanese island of Hokkaido. Braised pork belly, and a pile of grilled

corn topped with a big dollop of whipped butter lent a hint of American Southern barbecue which mingled with ramen noodles, miso broth, scallions, bamboo shoots and other flavors familiar to Japanese cuisine.

I also sampled a spicy tonkotsu ramen with lots of extras. Jalapenos, ground pork, seaweed and fish cakes all mixed in a hot savory pork broth. A soft boiled egg sliced and laid on top added a hearty finishing touch.

Tamashii means "soul or spirit" in Japanese, and as the name implies this is Japanese soul food. It's perfect to share with friends and wash down with a cold beer, or enjoy alone with a hot cup of tea.

Overall Tamashii Ramen House provides an excellent casual dining experience, and while I am no expert the food seemed authentic, like it might be served at a noodle shop in Japan. Though we had to wait nearly 45 minutes to get a table in the small noodle shop, it was worth it.

Rating: A+

—AMAR MOLINAS
WEBMASTER

MOVIE REVIEW | Writer considers the first season of 'Fuller House' disappointing

'Fuller House' season 2 should be better

My siblings and I gathered around my mom's living room this past weekend to watch the highly anticipated first episode of "Fuller House," titled Our Very Own Show, Again.

"Fuller House" is a spin off of the '90s favorite "Full House," but is described to be a stand alone series as well.

The plot is about D.J. Tanner, played by Candace Cameron Bure, widow and mother of three boys and the balancing act she is forced to juggle when her father leaves to pursue his career in Los Angeles. Sister Stephanie Tanner and best friend Kimmy Gibbler decide to move in and help with the kids and housework.

If you watched "Full House," you know the story plot was about a widowed dad raising three girls with the help of his two best friends.

I like that in this series we will see the hardships single mothers encounter and how they manage it all.

Before I began watching the show, I told myself I would keep an open mind but I was not impressed with the corny first episode.

Watching Danny Tanner, played by Bob Saget, made me cringe throughout the entire episode. His body movement on screen was awful and his voice was high pitched. Let's just say he could have used more rehearsal time.

In my opinion, the production team incorporated too much into one show. They could've laid off on



some of the jokes and sayings from "Full House." If it's a stand alone, viewers wouldn't get the jokes anyways. It was simply too much too soon.

But I do have to say Uncle Jesse, played by John Stamos, is still as handsome as he was in the '90s. My favorite part of the episode was when Jesse led the family in singing his heart-warming song "Forever." Even my brothers were singing along, which made us laugh, taking us back in time.

I already knew the youngest of the sisters, Michelle Tanner, played by twins Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen in "Full House," would not be in the new show. But

I'm still hoping they make an appearance at least once this season.

Overall, I was not impressed but I am going to give the Tanners a second chance and watch episode two. This will determine if I continue watching the season altogether.

Season one of "Fuller House" is available on Netflix.

Rating: C+

—ERIKA FIERRO
STAFF WRITER

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

MOVIE REVIEW | Reviewer eagerly anticipates the newest installment in this science-fiction series

Divergent delivering series of great films

For this week's movie review, I wanted to take a blast to the past to prepare for one of my most anticipated movies of the year, The Divergent Series: Allegiant. The movie officially hits theaters on Friday, March 18, but I wanted to review the previous two movies to gear up for the new installment.

The first installment in the series, Divergent, hit the big screen in March of 2014, and was a huge success both in popularity and financially, bringing in over \$54 million on its opening weekend and a total worldwide gross of over \$288 million.

The movie centers around a population in post-apocalyptic Chicago surrounded by a wall to protect them from what may be left outside. From what they know, a war decimated the human race, except those who reside within this wall, established by what they call "The Founders".



Within this wall, society is divided into 5 factions: Abnegation, Amity, Candor, Dauntless, and Erudite, each one with its own distinct personality traits. A choosing ceremony is held for teenagers to be sorted into each faction, after having taken an aptitude test to guide them in their choice. Tris Prior, our main protagonist, ends up being

divergent - she belongs to too many factions. She must now hide within a faction to survive, and evade capture by Erudite, which is now actively seeking out divergents to destroy them.

This movie's sequel, Insurgent, follows Tris as she evades capture. She is a wanted target after the events in the previous movie. She, along with

Factionless leaders, begins plotting to overthrow Jeanine Matthews, the leader of Erudite.

This movie takes a dramatic shift from the previous installment, which was exposition based, to an extremely action centered plot. The movie picks up right from the beginning and never stops, keeping viewers at the edge of their seat the entire time.

The next installment, Allegiant, is expected to be the most riveting and action-packed yet. From the trailers we've seen, this assumption is likely correct. We now follow Tris "beyond the wall" to discover that they are not alone on this planet. In fact, they're far from it. Based on having read the book, I expect the movie to be full of unseen revelations that will turn this series, and their world, upside down.

Rating A+

—TREY BELL
STAFF WRITER

VIDEO GAME REVIEW | Fallout 4 challenges the ethics of humanity while providing endless hours of entertainment

Old fashioned post-apocalyptic good-time gaming



I never thought that I'd be so low on creativity as to review a video game, but the railroad spike going in one ear and trying to come out the other is limiting my ability to reflect and contemplate. So here I am with this latest review.

Yeah ... Fallout 4, not bad at all.

It's not quite what Fallout 3 was to 2, of course, but this fourth one is a pretty decent game.

Being a Bethesda product, I spent as much time trying to get it to work as I did playing it, but that is to be expected.

The game takes place several hundred years into an alternative timeline future. It's a time in which a nuclear war has leveled civilization. This particular game takes place in the Boston, Massachusetts, area.

Despite having been nuked, Boston looks about the same as it does now. The people aren't much different despite being mutants. There's a small city in Fenway Park. The rest is pretty much as it is now.

So with high quality role playing games the trend has been toward a "shades of gray" type of morality. Ironically though, this is the first modern Fallout game to accomplish that. In the past your choices were something like, a) save villager, b) cannibalize villager. In this game there really is not a clearcut good and bad guy out of the warring factions to choose from. People are still complaining online about what game faction is right or just. None are, you just need to make the least bad choice.

You will find yourself so very conflicted, I don't want to spoil how you either kill your son or nuke Boston but it deserves mentioning as a plot element. I went with both personally. That is the beauty of a role playing game. You shouldn't second guess your moral decision making in a video game, but you will, and that is good writing.

Rating B+

—GRANT SWALWELL
MULTIMEDIA WRITER

Do you have an idea for a review? Send it to the Pioneer!
Email to the Pioneer editor at editor@occc.edu

Drug arrest, suspicious activity

HUNG TRAN

Senior Writer
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Reports from the campus police department in recent weeks include multiple arrests and a police response to an unaccompanied child.

On Feb. 27, campus police Officer Patrick Martino and part-time armed security officer Ian Wolfe approached a vehicle that was illegally parked in the fire lane south of the John Massey Center.

Based on the report, Martino said he noticed a woman, Carmen Leann Colson, 51, outside her car trying to open a paint can. Colson was unable to provide her driver's license when asked.



ARRESTED: Carmen Colson photo provided by Department of Corrections

Colson was placed into investigative detention and she admitted that she used heroin in the past and had smoked marijuana the day before.

Martino reported that Colson performed poorly in a field sobriety test and had difficulties during other tests.

Martino called Officer P.T. Solinski to the scene to perform a search of Colson's vehicle. A bag of marijuana was found along with two pipes that, according to the report, exhibited an odor of burnt marijuana.

Colson was placed under arrest and transported to Integris Southwest Center for blood test. She was then transported to the Oklahoma County Detention Center where an intake detention officer discovered another pipe in Colson's bra.

In the report, six pills, a scale with white residue, two butane lighters, a mirror, three razor blades and a plastic tube containing white residue were also listed as being taken from Colson as evidence at the time.

In another incident on Feb. 23, police

encountered what was reported as a suspicious person on campus.

Officer Martino reported that when he was on patrol at 4:15 p.m., he noticed Eric Lee Hurley, 26, near VPAC entry number 2.

Martino said in his report that Hurley looked sluggish and had glazed, blood-shot eyes, and was wearing a shirt with a picture of a marijuana leaf on its back.

Martino made contact with Hurley and determined he was not an OCCC student.

Martino reported he noticed an odor on Hurley's breath or person similar to burnt marijuana.

Martino administered an eyelid tremor and convergence test. Hurley's eyes did not converge quickly and his tongue was reportedly green and a few raised taste buds were visible.

Martino found that Hurley did have a warrant for his arrest. Hurley was transported to Oklahoma County Detention Center for that warrant.

On Feb. 25, OCCC police received a phone call reporting an unaccompanied

minor wandering around Parking Lot A near the main building.

Officer Jeremy Bohannon was dispatched to the scene to locate the child. While searching, he was informed that the child was spotted on campus surveillance entering a red Nissan.

Bohannon immediately located and stopped the vehicle.

Based on the report, the driver, whose name was redacted, stated that she was the child's grandmother.

She and her grandson were waiting on campus to pick up her daughter, the mother of the unattended child. The woman explained that her grandson had stepped out of the car and onto a grassy median in the parking lot only for a moment to look for his mother. Unable to see her, he returned to the car.

Bohannon reported that the child was in good health and had remained in view of his grandmother at all times. The child's mother rejoined the others five minutes later and the three left campus without incident.

Some information was redacted from the reports under the direction of Marketing and Public Relations Director Cordell Jordan, who said names are redacted "according to OCCCPD Standard Operating Procedures involving information released and information withheld."

To obtain a copy of the procedure, email cjordan@occc.edu.

To contact campus police, call 405-682-1611, ext 7747.



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Community Outreach director leaves for OU

ERIKA FIERRO

Staff Writer

staffwriter4@occc.edu

After 15 years at OCCC, Jessica Martinez-Brooks, will leave her position as director of Community Outreach and Education on March 25 to pursue a new challenge at the University of Oklahoma.

The decision to leave OCCC and accept the role of Director of Diversity Enrichment Programs at OU was one of the most difficult decisions of her life, Martinez-Brooks said.

She said she currently oversees a variety of community outreach programs at OCCC designed to prepare families to thrive in the education system or in the workforce.

There is a total of 1,707 students currently enrolled in the high school equivalency classes and 2,601 students enrolled in the English Spanish language classes, Martinez-Brooks said.

"My favorite aspect of the job is the community we serve," Martinez-Brooks said.

"When people are not getting the services they need, that impacts a number of different areas in their lives, their kids ability to learn, their ability to get out of poverty, so we have to be there for them."

Most of the programs are free or low cost and include early college awareness for children, citizenship classes, and ACT prep to name a few Martinez-Brooks said. The off-campus Capitol Hill Center, also under her direction targets job readiness and bilingual education classes among other programs.

Oklahoma City School Board member Gloria Torres has worked with Martinez-Brooks over the past two years.

"She has been the driving force behind developing the Capitol Hill Center," said Gloria Torres, Capitol Hill Center administrator. "I like to say now that this is my baby, but really this was hers."

"She's been the constant driving force of developing the culture here and she

has taught me well."

The Capitol Hill Center is located at 123 SW 25th Street.

Torres said the department was made up of two people when Martinez-Brooks first took the role of director and under her leadership, the department has grown to have over 110 employees.

"OCCC is an institution she believes in because of what we do for our community, and that's what her life is about, serving the community," Torres said.

Martinez-Brooks said she was born and raised in south Oklahoma City and decided to attend OCCC when she was offered a generous scholarship covering her tuition costs for two years.

Her ties to OCCC are not only that of an employee but as an alumni as well.

Martinez-Brooks said she graduated with an associate in arts in journalism, was the editor for OCCC's student newspaper, the Pioneer, and was actively involved on campus as a college

student.

"Being editor taught me about deadlines, prioritizing the work, and it taught me a lot of skills that I used when I did my internships and when I worked at the Oklahoman," Martinez-Brooks said. "The college really prepared me for the workforce."

Martinez-Brooks said she has a bachelor's degree in journalism and a master's in administrative leadership from OU.

Outside of work, Martinez-

Brooks currently serves on the board of directors for Teach for America and the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma. In 2014, she was recognized with the Director's Community Leadership Award from the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Martinez-Brooks said her biggest influence and mentor growing up was her late grandmother, Anita Martinez, who was a very active volunteer in the

Hispanic community in south Oklahoma City.

"She was that strong Latina who stood up, she started her own senior citizen center and ran it for 30 plus years," Martinez-Brooks said. "She would tell me that if someone asks for help, you help them no matter who they are or where they come from."

Martinez-Brooks said she loves what she does, is committed to her community, and wants to continue to grow and learn.

"Education has always been an important part of my life, and how I've gotten where I am today is because I kept going with my education," Martinez-Brooks said. "I want to work on my doctorate, it's time for a new challenge, we've grown the program, and I'm leaving it in great hands,"

Torres said she will serve as the acting director of Community Outreach and Education when Martinez-Brooks heads to OU.

"This move is not only a great opportunity for her, it's a great opportunity for our community because she's going to do at OU what she's done here," Torres said.



BROOKS: Director of Community Outreach and Education, Jessica Martinez-Brooks, delivers the opening message at the high school equivalency graduation ceremony on Feb. 26. *Erika Fierro/Pioneer*

“that’s what her life is about, serving the community.”

—GLORIA TORRES
OKC SCHOOL BOARD

it's a small world

Vietnamese student compares U.S. to home

HUNG TRAN

Senior Writer
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High educational aspirations and reuniting with her family are the two largest contributing factors that led Vy Ho to America.

"Right now, all of my family members are living together in Oklahoma, my parents and two of my older sisters," said the biotechnology major.

As many other international students do, she also faced a lot of problems when she first came to America. There are a lot of things that are completely different between the two countries, she said.

Ho said one of the biggest problems is communication. "Nobody understood what I say," she commented.

In Vietnam, students do not have many chances to interact and speak with America people. Therefore, most students only focus on learning English vocabulary, reading, and grammar.

"I had to spend a lot of time talking with [American] people and practicing in pronunciation," Ho said.

Dissimilarity in culture between her country and America also made her feel really uncomfortable.

"The way people here and Vietnamese celebrate holiday is totally different," she said. "For example, people here celebrate New Year based on western calendar, but in Vietnam, they use both calendar systems.

"However, Lunar New Year is much more important in my country, and it usually lasts around a week."

In addition, the way students are being taught at schools in America is also unusual compared to what she was taught in Vietnam.

"In my country, students mainly study more about concepts and definitions in schools, but in American, students are required to perform a lot of practices in lab and have many chances to go on field trips in order to learn firsthand experiences."

One thing she likes the most in Oklahoma is the people.

"Oklahoma folks are so friendly and nice. I could see that through the way they help each others," she said.

Ho said "The weather here always drives me crazy because it frequently changes and so unpredictable."

Talking about choosing to study in OCCC, she said the college is a good choice for any beginners. The tuition here is cheap and OCCC offers many small classes compared to other universities.

"It helps me have more attention from the professor in class, so I can get more support and discussion with them," Ho said. "OCCC professors are so friendly, helpful, and care about their students."

She said she is studying biotechnology at OCCC.

"I started studying this subject in high school and getting interested in it," Ho said. "In my major I have to do many work in lab and experiments with cells almost every single day.

"One of my current classes right now is studying about cell culture and I am raising some Chinese hamster cells. This class is not a hard class, but students need to be careful in reading and following exactly instructions when doing experiment because one



VY HO: International student now majors in biotechnology at OCCC. *Hung Tran/Pioneer*

wrong step might destroy the whole process."

Whenever she thinks of Vietnam, food and friends are two things that immediately come to her mind first, she said.

"Although there are many Vietnamese foods in Oklahoma, they taste very different because they were all Americanized."

Ho said she still keeps in touch with many Vietnamese friends and she is really planning to go back and meet them next year.

"One thing which makes me feel sad is that I did not have a chance to say goodbye to all of

them because at this time I left, I was late for the enrollment time in college, so I had to come here in hurry."

She said she was really shocked when first setting foot in Oklahoma.

"I used to view America through movies. I always imagined America is a country with many skyscrapers, crowded places, and streets which are always filled by many people."

However, she said Oklahoma is really good for her because it provides students an appropriate environment to help her focus on learning.



Vietnam

Capital: Hanoi

Population: 89.71 million (2013)

GDP: 1,910.51 USD (2013)

Size: 127,881 mi²

Official Language: Vietnamese

Currency: Vietnamese dong

Government: Communist

Religion: Buddhism

Details: Vietnam is a Southeast Asian country on the South China Sea known for its beaches, rivers, Buddhist pagodas and bustling cities.



SPORTS



BOXING PRACTICE: Nathan Larrinaga, film major, practices with Trevor Rogers, film major, to perfect their boxing skills at the Wellness Center. *Melissa Sue Lopez/Pioneer*

SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

Oklahoma City Thunder @ San Antonio Spurs

7:30 p.m. Saturday on ESPN

Player to watch: In this case, there's actually two players to watch, and every human in Oklahoma knows who they are. Russell Westbrook and Kevin Durant are both quietly having a spectacular season, with Westbrook averaging career highs in assists, rebounds and field goal percentage. The Thunder have failed to close out game after game, and a lot of that blame falls on these two superstars.

Reason why you should watch: The Thunder and Spurs, both well acquainted with each other, have only played once this season. That game, however, was the first game of the season for both teams, and the Thunder came out on top in a very close contest that finished 106-112. Fast forward to today, and the Spurs and Thunder are on very different trajectories. The Spurs sport the second best record in the league, and still haven't lost at home. The Thunder, who have lost 9 games this season when leading in the 4th (only the bottom-dwelling Philadelphia 76ers have more), are starting to look like a non factor in the playoffs unless they can correct their crunch-time issues. This game is as important for the Thunder's psyche as it is for their playoff seeding, which could slip to 4th if the Los Angeles Clippers continue their winning ways.

NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament March 15 to April 4, on CBS, TBS, TNT and Tru TV

Player to watch: LSU forward Ben Simmons has long been touted the next big thing in the NBA. Most believe his skillset is comparable to NBA star LeBron James, considering his size and his ability to pass and run the floor. While LSU hasn't been an outstanding team this season, the Australian prodigy will have a chance to showcase his talents on a national level.

Reason why you should watch: Everyone loves March Madness! Even people that hardly watch college basketball during its regular season, like most of my friends for instance, are itching to fill out a bracket for the annual tournament. It's genuinely one of the best events in sports, with storyline after storyline appearing throughout the tournament. Looking through an Oklahoma lens, the Sooners, led by star guard Buddy Hield, are one of the best teams in the country and are poised to make a run at the title.

Zumba a workout from head to toe

IAN MANERA

Sports Writer

sportswriter@occc.edu

Any OCCC student interested in working out and getting fit without all the weights and equipment may want to try the Zumba fitness class, said new Zumba Instructor Rhonda Dunn.

Zumba, for those that don't know, is one of the most renowned fitness exercises due to the fact that it revolves around one thing: dancing. Dances that are from cultures from all over the world.

"It's a dance cardio class that incorporates all of your body. So, you're working all of your muscles in your whole body. The idea is to have the participants focus on fun, and try to get them thinking about the dance and the fun of that, which takes their mind off the work of it," said Dunn.

The class is heavily influenced by Latin America music, but Dunn says there's music and dances from all different cultures.

"It's Latin based so there's a lot of Latin music, but there's also many other genres. There's merengue,

there's salsa, there's samba, reggaeton, bachata, and bangara to name a few."

These different styles of music are integral in Dunn's class, with each exercise centered around a certain style of music, usually depending on the speed of the music itself.

"The dances are based on the music so we match the dances to the style of music."

"They come in and we warm up on a type of song that's not as fast and then we gradually build it up with faster music. Then, we have the cooldown at the end," said Dunn.

While Dunn believes the idea of dancing can be intimidating to students that may never have tried it before, she believes the way she instructs her class gives newcomers a perfect opportunity to test out their moves.

"In my class, I announce in the beginning, before we start each song and pattern, that I'm going to make it small. Then, I'll ramp it up. But,

they don't have to ramp it up if they don't want to. You can go at your own pace. You don't have to do what the instructor does, we just want you to move and have fun.

Anyone can do it."

This style of class makes it very easy for Dunn's students to get as creative as they want with Zumba.

"I always tease my classes sometimes, 'do whatever you want to do, and I might just steal your moves.'"

Students interested in taking Zumba or any of the other free fitness classes offered at OCCC can look at the fitness class schedule posted at www.occc.edu/rf/wellness-classes.html to find a class that works best for their schedule.

For more information about any fitness classes offered here at OCCC, contact the Recreation & Fitness Department at 405-682-7860, or visit www.occc.edu/rf.



Intramural hoops heats up in tourney

TRAVIS FORSYTH
News Writing Student

The second place team in league play, Illicit, came from behind March 2 to knock down first-place rival Duhh Saahh (4-0) in the post-season basketball tournament in the gym.

Illicit (3-1) was down 5 points at halftime, but came back to win the championship crown with a final score of 79-74.

At first it seemed Lady Luck was on Duhh Saahh's side, but it turned out the gods wrote a different script to end this semester's intramural basketball season.

Duhh Saahh started the post-season run against the Bloccc Boys (1-3), who got the tournament started early in the evening by knocking off the Tune Squad (1-3) with a score of 66-45.

Duhh Saahh had previously defeated the Bloccc Boys 77-32 during the regular season on Feb. 10.

However, the Boys showed they were an improved team as they matched Duhh Saahh point for point and tied the game 30-30 at the half. Late in the second half and up by a couple of scores,



BREAK AWAY: dribbling toward the basket on a fast break, the team Duhh Saahh was still unable to overcome Illicit on March 4 *Erika Fierro/Pioneer*

the Bloccc Boys were poised to be the first team to send Duhh Saahh packing.

The game ended with Duhh Saahh scoring off untimely fouls to edge the Boys 59-57 in the closing seconds.

Illicit's match earlier in the evening against And 1 (1-3) was a closely contested game, much like the last meeting between these two teams. On Feb. 10 Illicit beat And 1 65-60. Essentially the

same result occurred in the tournament as Illicit raced to the championship game following the 79-75 victory.

Duhh Saahh had reason to be confident going into the final match. When the team met Illicit on Feb. 17, Duhh Saahh won an 86-59 blowout.

Saahh's Teran Simpson spoke about needed adjustments to his teammates before the game.

"We need to set screens and move the ball," said Simpson, whose major is business.

The first half ended with Duhh Saahh leading 35-30 and it seemed they would be the eventual champs.

But the tables were turned by the end, when Duhh Saahh's hopes of a storybook season started to look bleak.

Saahh's defense started to collapse and Illicit took advantage of the unnecessary fouls that would lead to the 79-74 upset.

"We just kept playing defense and pressure turned it over for us," said Illicit's Holden Cory Linzy, an accounting major.

Illicit's championship victory wrapped up the intramural basketball season for the spring semester. However, Basketball Open Run will start on March 23, and run through May 4.

From 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, students will be allowed to show up alone or with their friends and play organized pickup basketball games, said Matthew Wright, sports and recreation specialist.

For information on Basketball Open Run, contact Sports & Recreation Specialist Matthew Wright at matthew.j.wright@occc.edu.

Testing Center: a more relaxed environment

Continued from page 1

Student Micayla Payne is majoring in Public Relations at OCCC and will be graduating in May.

Payne said she has noticed some of the changes in the Testing Center. The thing that she said stuck out to her most was the incorporation of live plants.

"The plants made the Testing Center more open and inviting," she said.

Payne explained that before the changes were implemented, she'd always felt the Testing Center was very intimidating and scary. Now, she said, it is less stressful, and more calming. She said she takes about one test per week in the Testing Center.

Payne said When her teachers would ask in class if the students wanted to take their tests in the classroom or the testing center, she would vote to take tests in class. Since the changes to the Testing Center, she said she no longer

minds taking her tests there.

Testing Center employee Shara Hendriks said the entire staff is on board with the changes.

"The changes to the testing environment have helped the students connect with the staff in a more friendly way," Hendriks said, "When the students first come in, we have to ask them to put their phone and belongings in the lockers, which makes them uncomfortable."

She said now that students are received in a more inviting atmosphere, they don't get tensed and stressed about the little things that can affect the way they test.

Hendriks said she has seen the changes affecting the students in a positive way.

Hendriks graduated from OCCC, then started working in the Testing Center.

She experienced taking tests in the Testing Center as a student.

"I was personally involved and can relate to how the students feel," Hendriks said.

Rucker said the Testing Center is working on its welcoming image, but it doesn't mean the staff is any less vigilant about scrutinizing the test-taking process.

High resolution cameras are installed throughout the facility to detect cheating but Rucker said video monitoring is in place to help students too.

She said students in the testing center are monitored on video screens at all times.

If a student raises their hand to ask a question, the testing staff can see them on the screen and go help them, Rucker said.

Rucker has been working at OCCC for nine years and took the job as the Testing Center assistant director in September.

As technology increases, Rucker said,

the Testing Center would like to transfer more paper tests to online. Online tests are automatically graded and the graded tests go straight to the professor, which keeps professors from having to leave their office to come get tests.

Rucker said she believes moving paper tests to online could protect the integrity of the tests as well.

Among its other changes, the Testing Center also started a Facebook page at the beginning of this semester to connect with the students, Rucker said.

The new OCCC Facebook wall ([facebook.com/OCCCtesting](https://www.facebook.com/OCCCtesting)) has links that help students learn study strategies before they take a test.

Rucker said she would love for students to leave comments, or any questions they have, on the Facebook wall.

For more information, contact Testing and Assessment Department at 405-682-7531.

CAMPUS COMMUNITY



DIVERSITY PANELISTS: (Left to right) Jermaine Peterson, student support service adviser, Amanda Finch, assistant director and Brian Coulson, Upward Bound adviser, pose for a photo in their TRiO office. *Melissa Sue Lopez/Pioneer*

Staff talks diversity and race

DAVID MCINTOSH
News Writing Student

Reinforcing the idea that both bullying and racism have no part in college, a small gathering of campus professionals tackled the hot button issues of diversity, inclusion, and cultural awareness on campus Feb. 23.

The discussion was kicked off by mediator Steven Bloomberg, OCCC's acting executive vice president.

"This is a very important topic to me, growing up in a very small and rural area, and coming from a multi-racial family," Bloomberg said.

The panelists were Amanda Finch, assistant director of TRiO; Jermaine Peterson, TRiO student support service adviser; and Brian Coulson, TRiO Upward Bound adviser.

They talked about how to better understand and handle sensitive topics and situations.

"We all have an obligation to say something, and speak up," Peterson said, referring to situations where people experience racism or bullying.

Peterson described himself as African American who grew up in mainly white spaces.

The importance of inclusion and empathy was part of the message conveyed by Finch, who described herself as coming from a biracial military family.

"We need to look at each individual's perspective, give respect, and validate," she said. Doing this will help slow down and stop racism, and strengthen the ideas of cultural awareness not only in schools, but

eventually everywhere.

Overall the panelists had similar definitions of racism — the belief that one race is superior to another.

Peterson brought up the term microaggression, which he described as "when small things manifest into bigger issues." He called microaggression a form of subtle racism, citing the example of a woman wearing Confederate flag earrings.

Peterson said microaggressions are more easily overlooked than overt racism, such as racial slurs.

Student Omar Gonzalez made a note of how the media often misrepresents different races and cultures.

"Everyone should be judged at the same level of severity," he said. In reference to the depiction of races in the news media, Gonzalez said black and Hispanic protesters often are depicted as thugs, while whites may be assigned different labels.

Diversity and inclusion are important topics on campus, given the makeup of the student body. A report of students attending OCCC last fall showed that 54 percent identified themselves as Caucasians.

The remaining 46 percent identified under five other categories.

After Caucasian, the next largest groups were Hispanic or Latino at 16 percent and Black or African American at 11 percent. Other groups and their percentage are Asian at eight percent and Native American or Alaskan at four percent. Two or more races was selected by seven percent of students.

For more information about diversity and inclusion, contact Bloomberg at sbloomberg@occc.edu.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

H.O.P.E Club Meeting, March 22

The Hispanic Organization to Promote Education invites everyone to the next meeting from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 22, in room 3K2 located on the third floor of the Main Building. The group plans on-campus events and volunteers in the Hispanic community. To get involved, contact club president Marylin Segura at 405-651-6602 or by email at marylin.segura@my.occc.edu.

Native American to host artist March 22

The Native American Student Association invites faculty, staff, and students to a presentation by artist Michael Elizondo Jr. at noon Wednesday, March 22, in the College Union. Elizondo was an artist-in-residence at the Jacobson House Native Arts Center in Norman, and is now an adjunct faculty member in the University of Central Oklahoma's Art Department.

USAO Representative on campus March 23

Thinking about transferring to the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma? A USAO representative will be on campus from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, March 23, in the Transfer Center located next to Academic Advising. Ask questions, bring transcripts, and learn more about what USAO can offer you. For more information contact Javier Puebla at 405-682-7567 or by email at javier.puebla@occc.edu.

GET a Job Session: Get an Internship March 23

Looking for an internship but don't know where to start? Come by and learn of the internships available in Oklahoma from a representative of Greater Grads from noon to 1 p.m., on Wednesday, March 23, in College Union 2. For more information contact the Employment Services office by phone at 405-682-7519.

NPR reporter talks state water issues March 23

KGOU's National Public Radio State Impact reporter Logan Layden will discuss water issues surrounding Oklahoma and the metro area from noon to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, March 23, in College Union room 3. For more information contact the library circulation desk at 405-682-7564.

All Highlights are due Monday by noon for inclusion in the next issue of the Pioneer. Please email your upcoming event details to editor@occc.edu or stop in to the Pioneer office located in AH 1F2.

CLASSIFIEDS

Pioneer classified advertising is free to all enrolled OCCC students and employees for any personal classified ad. Ad applications must be submitted with IDs supplied by 5 p.m. Fridays prior to the next publication date. For more information, call the Ad Manager at 405-682-1611, ext. 7674, or e-mail adman@occc.edu.

FURNITURE

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Smoking gave me throat cancer at 39. Now I breathe through a hole in my throat and need this machine to speak.
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FOR HELP CALL 311
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WEEKLY CROSSWORD

Across

- 1. Served perfectly
- 5. Sch. groups
- 9. Receded
- 14. Hand gesture
- 15. Curve
- 16. Pass along
- 17. Over again
- 18. Printed material
- 20. ____ Howard of "Happy Days"
- 21. Brief sleep
- 22. Reduces
- 23. Dictator
- 25. Besides
- 26. Highly skilled
- 28. Camera support
- 33. Pebble
- 36. Table parts
- 38. Perform alone
- 39. Mamas' mates
- 40. Mess up
- 41. Item of value
- 42. Quiz
- 43. Path
- 44. Detroit products
- 45. Expand
- 47. In the know
- 49. Greet
- 51. Early car (2 wds.)
- 55. Point winners
- 59. Come in first place
- 60. Pub
- 61. Slept through winter
- 63. Completed
- 64. Make up for
- 65. Shoemaker's tools
- 66. Machu Picchu native
- 67. Track events
- 68. Foal
- 69. Viewed

Down

- 1. Prize
- 2. Narrow boat
- 3. Makes level
- 4. Morning dampness
- 5. Roof of the mouth
- 6. Journey
- 7. Deed
- 8. Seashore find
- 9. Blackboard cleaner
- 10. Wagers
- 11. Melancholy
- 12. Deserve
- 13. Coloring agents
- 19. Takes a break
- 21. Lymph ____
- 24. Canal country
- 25. Unending
- 27. Urgent request
- 29. Published
- 30. Mail
- 31. Butter alternative
- 32. Connect the ____
- 33. Rushed
- 34. City transportation
- 35. October birthstone
- 37. Flourished
- 41. Baseball great Hank ____
- 43. Acquire knowledge
- 46. "____ Something About Mary"
- 48. Among
- 50. Singer ____ Hayes
- 52. Keyboard wood
- 53. Jousting weapon
- 54. Staircase part
- 55. Counterfeit
- 56. Quote
- 57. Band instrument
- 58. Housing payment
- 59. Wishing ____
- 62. Pair
- 63. Spotted cube

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Don't Text And Drive

Drivers who use cellphones are 4 times more likely to get into crashes that could be fatal

Using a cellphone while driving delays a drivers reactions as much as having a B.A.C. level of 0.08

"Don't Drive while inTEXTicated. Driving while inTEXTicated kills."

Energy Manager saves college money, turns lights off

IAN MANERA

Sports Writer

sportswriter@occc.edu

OCCC's energy conservation efforts saved the school over \$200,000 last fiscal year, and the plan is to save even more this year with the help of new Energy Manager Trey Lewis.

The introduction of the Oklahoma Facilities Energy Program or "20 percent by 2020," a program created by Senate Bill 1096 in 2012 with the goal of creating a 20 percent reduction in energy spending by the year 2020, OCCC's energy conservation efforts look to be even more on the upswing as a result.

Lewis, who graduated from Oklahoma State University with a degree in political science and economics before heading to American University where he received his degree in global environmental policy, has taken the reigns as the new Energy Manager and has big plans.

"[As an Energy Manager], there's two different aspects. First, there's the behavioral stuff. Everything from managing our building automation system and making sure the lights go off when they're supposed to go off, or going around and making sure all of the lights are flipped off," Lewis said.

"And on the other side, it's the performance side. And that's everything from putting in LED bulbs to replace fluorescent bulbs, or looking at new gas heaters instead of electric heaters. Everything that is performance based."

Lewis said OCCC saved over \$200,000 last year, even though the energy conservation mainly kicked in around the middle of last year, and a lot of that was due to a high profile closing.

"The closing of the aquatic center was also a very huge part. We probably spent about \$300,000 a year on utilities on just the aquatic center," he said.

While \$200,000 is a very big amount, Lewis believes that the school should be able to save over \$500,000 this fiscal year if everything goes according to plan.

"Now, we'll get the full twelve months

of savings from something like the Aquatic Center closing. The thing about energy saving is that there's a couple big things, but there's a lot of little things. It all adds up every day."

Lewis says the facilities management team deserves a lot of the credit for the big time savings.

"And, the facilities management team has been really good at going through every operation and making sure we're doing it in the most efficient way possible. They have been the main driving force behind a lot of the savings," he said.

While this new energy conservation program is obviously helping the school financially, it's also making the school a much more eco-friendly place.

"Last calendar year, we saved enough energy to power 800 homes and 6,000 tons of CO₂. It's really important for our community and our plans health to save CO₂. While 6,000 tons might not be huge in the scheme of things, everything adds up. If every school in the state saved that much, we'd reduce our carbon emissions by a hefty amount," Lewis said.

Even though he has only been OCCC's Energy Manager since December, he already has plans laid out for this fiscal year, starting with the 20 percent by 2020 program.

"I'd like to meet the "20 percent by 2020" goal. The goal is to meet it by 2020, but if we keep up this year's work, we should be able to hit it by the end of this fiscal year. I'd like to try to hit 25 percent [by 2020], which I think is doable."

He also wants to get the students and faculty involved as much as possible.

"What I would like to do is, take all of the great stuff they've been doing behind the scenes, and communicate it out to people. So, talking with the press, or the faculty and the students about everything we've done and everything they can do to save energy."

Lewis said campus inhabitants should try to be as environmentally conscious as possible, because it can go a long way.

"If you see lights that are on, turn them off. Obviously that's a small thing, but it helps. Another thing is just keeping track of the little things. Try not

to use the handicap button because it holds the doors open for a really long time, and all of that conditioned air gets sucked out."

If students have any ideas about how the college can save energy, Lewis and the rest of the department are very open to any and all ideas or complaints.

"Emailing me [frank.w.lewis@occc.edu] is the best way to reach out. That way they can tell me everything they have in mind. For example, if they have case studies about something they saw at a church or another campus, that really helps us too," he said.

"I really welcome feedback, as much feedback as possible from people. Even if you aren't happy about something, that's just as good."

While Lewis understands that the college has made great strides in energy conservation, he is ready to take on bigger challenges to help the school even more.

"A lot of the low hanging fruit has already been picked, and now we're onto the harder stuff that may require a little more sacrifice."



WORKING TO CONSERVE: Trey Lewis, who oversees different types of energy conservation at OCCC, sits at his desk in his office. *Ian Manera/Pioneer*